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SENATE BILL 244

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, relative to punch card voting systems.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, effective January 1, 2004, any use of punch card voting systems shall be prohibited in all state and federal elections held within the state of Tennessee.

SECTION 2. The state coordinator of elections shall work with the county election commissions where punch card voting systems currently exist to replace such systems with voting machines and to provide assistance to the county to obtain federal funds if any are available. The purchase of such new voting machines shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of §2-9-111 through §2-9-114.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-206(b)(2), is amended by deleting from the sixth sentence of the subdivision the language ", C.E.S., Votomatic or comparable punch card voting systems,".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-206(b)(2), is further amended by deleting the sentence "The ballot format for C.E.S., Inc., Votomatic, or other comparable punch

card systems shall be governed by the rules set out by the coordinator of elections and the state election commission under § 2-9-110."

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-209, is amended by deleting subsection (d).

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-211(a), is amended by deleting the language "; provided, that in any county in which the votomatic punch card system is used, the county election commission may use copies of the guide page ballot as sample ballots".

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-216(b)(2), is amended by deleting the language "provided, that ballot applications need not be provided in any county which uses Votomatic or a comparable punch card voting system;".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-220, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-117, is amended by deleting subsection (b).

SECTION 10. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. Sections 3 through 9 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.